



Hon. Robert T. Matsui

Member of Congress

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Serving California's 5th District

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MATSUI STATEMENT ON TODAY'S ECONOMIC FORUM IN WACO

"Today President Bush is putting on a show in Waco that will have no real impact on the economy. President Bush did not invite any Members of Congress, which is unfortunate since Congress will have to vote on the economic policies we will eventually pursue. Instead, President Bush has invited his fundraisers, his donors, and the wealthy elite from the business community to come with wish lists for their own interests and industries. It's outrageous to host such an event while ordinary Americans are struggling to pay their bills, prepare their children for school, or plan a much-needed vacation.

"The Waco forum really demonstrates the Bush Administration's approach to the economy. We see people with wealth who do not understand what ordinary Americans are going through gathered around a table for a photo opportunity. The irony is that for months, Democrats have requested a serious economic summit, where leaders from both parties can sit down together with experts from various perspectives and actually hammer out an agenda to get the economy moving again. Instead of taking us up on this initiative, the Bush Administration is holding a public relations gimmick in Texas.

"This whole PR stunt reminds me of President Gerald Ford's 'Whip Inflation Now' campaign from the 1970s. It's easy to hold a slick made-for-TV event. It's harder to face the realities of a failed fiscal policy and collapse of economic confidence. Americans are not asking for a media campaign. They want leadership and solutions, neither of which will come out of today's forum in Waco."

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